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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I will now put the motion of the hon. the Finance Member to the vote of the House. The question is 'that the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Audit and Appropriation Accounts of the Presidency of Madras for 1926–27 be taken into consideration'."

The motion was carried.

VI

THE MIRZAPURAM AND PEDAGONNUR IMPARTIBLE ESTATES BILL.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The motion that the consideration of the Bill be adjourned [a] was under consideration. Mr. Hameed Khan will now continue his speech."

* Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Mr. President, Sir, I was speaking the other day on the adjournment motion moved by my friend Mr Biswanath Das Mahasayo for postponement of the consideration of the Bill for three months. Sir, as I have stated, I do not see the need for the great hurry with which attempts have been made to enact into law the present Bill that has been before this House. The hurry that has been made by the mover of this Bill is, so far as I see, with a view to take away the legitimate rights of certain members of the zamindaris referred to in this Bill. As it was stated before, I see no reason why three months should not be given for the consideration of this Bill so that the claims of all the various families concerned will be scrutinized and that no wrong will be done to them. I therefore believe that the House will be doing an elementary act of justice to the members of the families concerned in this Bill by giving them an opportunity to place their case before the Members of this House so that we shall be prepared when we come next to the Council to see that their case does not go by default. It is with that object, Sir, that the motion is considered necessary for the purpose of giving three months' time so that we might not pass the legislation in a hurry."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question is 'that the consideration of the Bill be adjourned to a date three months hence'."

The motion was lost

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I will now put the Bill clause by clause for the consideration of the House."

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" I move that the figures '1929' in clause 1 be substituted for '1928'."

The ZAMINDAR OF GOLLAPALLI :—" I second it."

The motion was carried and clause 1 as amended was allowed to stand part of the Bill.

* Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" I do not propose to move the first portion of my amendment to clause 2. I shall move the second portion of it."

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[a] Please see proceedings of the 25th February 1929.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member is aware that the second portion affects civil rights and therefore he ought to have obtained the previous sanction of the Governor-General. He has not obtained such sanction and therefore the hon. Member cannot move that amendment."

Clause 2 was put to the House and carried and allowed to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3 was put to the House and carried and allowed to stand part of the Bill.

The Preamble was put to the House and carried and allowed to stand part of the Bill.

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" I now move that the Bill be passed into law."

The ZAMINDAR OF GOLLAPALLI :—" I second it."

3-45 p.m. * Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" I oppose the motion that the Bill be passed into law."

* Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" I also support this opposing motion. Sir, we want certain guarantees. Not that the proletariat or the ryots are more interested in the junior members of the zamindari family than the zamindars themselves. We want some assurances to be given on their behalf. The interests of those that will be affected by this Bill when passed into law will have to be protected. Unless such a guarantee is given and their maintenance is ensured on an adequate scale it will be very hard; and in the interests of justice to those who are not present here such a guarantee should be given. If such guarantees are given and they are placed on a statutory basis and proper and adequate maintenance is guaranteed to the junior members of the family, I do not think any hon. Member will have any objection."

The ZAMINDAR OF GOLLAPALLI :—" I am sorry that we have been unnecessarily misunderstood by my hon. Friends on this side of the House. I am not now concerned with the various charges and allegations that have been levelled against us in the various speeches that have been made, but anyhow in order to clarify the issue at hand, let me state that this motion is unnecessary in view of the assurance I make on behalf of the zamindars."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" There is no motion except the motion that the Bill be passed into law."

The ZAMINDAR OF GOLLAPALLI :—" For the purpose of clarifying the position let me state that this opposition is unnecessary. In view of the assurance that I make on behalf of the zamindars in the House that we as a class are certainly in favour of suitable provisions being made for the junior members of the zamindari families, and in view of the fact that we are prepared to give our sympathetic consideration and support to the principles underlying the Bill moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Biswanath Das I hope the hon. Member who opposed the passing of this Bill into law will withdraw his motion."

* Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" I am very much surprised at the statement made by my hon. Friend, Mr. Anjaneyulu, and the reply given by my hon. Friend, the Zamindar of Gollapalli. It appears as if they have formed a

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pact about this matter, viz., that one should object to this Bill being passed into law and the other should give assurance and after which the objection should be withdrawn. It is a very nice arrangement between them and I do not quarrel with them. That may be a very good thing so far as those two gentlemen are concerned. My hon. Friend Mr. Anjaneyulu represents the members of this party or the members of this House as much as my hon. Friend the Zamindar of Gollapalli represents the whole body of zamindars. So, their agreement is as much binding on the members of this House as it is on the zamindars. I want to make my position very clear. I have nothing to do with this pact or compromise. It is not for us to go on bended knees and ask these zamindars whose estates have been made impartible 'Please protect your children, do not allow them to be at the public charge.' It is not our business. If this House consents to a Bill like this, it must have taken into its consideration how these poor children ought to be protected. This House ought to have taken into their consideration whether these children of the zamindars have been well provided, or whether they have to go to court or whether they have to be protected by other people. That is a different thing altogether. Our objection to this Bill is that we should not perpetuate a system which was brought into existence at the time of the East India Company. Because at the time of the East India Company they sold away certain portions of their territories to a class of people called the zamindars and they collected permanent revenue from them and while selling those portions they also sold away the interests of the people, who were really in possession of portions of the lands in their own right, we do not want that the same system should be continued. Now if estates after estates should come forward with a Bill of this sort and want to make this system of impartible estates a permanent institution as it were, we have to oppose it, because it is not in the interest of the people that these zamindaris should be perpetuated as long as the world lasts. If the people think that some of these impartible estates newly created do no good to the people, they can as well when they are sufficiently strong bring in a Bill into this Council and repeal these Acts. So, it is no good on the part of any hon. Member of this House to give an assurance that we are quite satisfied with this Bill and that the only thing that we want is that the children of the zamindari families should be given sufficient allowance for their maintenance and so on. Of course my hon. Friend Sir A. P. Patro says: 'It is quite right, you can keep quiet.' I am told he is a little bit of a zamindar himself and he may perhaps introduce a Bill called Sir Patro's Bill. But representing as we do the interests of the people, we ought to see how their interests are jeopardized by this Bill. We are more interested in the general public than my hon. Friend is interested in the body of the zamindars and so I make my position quite clear and oppose the passing of this Bill."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

VII

A BILL TO AMEND THE MADRAS ABKARI ACT, 1886.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha:—"I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Madras Abkari Act, 1886, as amended by the Select Committee be taken into consideration."

Mr. D. Narayana Raju:—"I second it."